

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 94-696-C - ORDER NO. 94-1287 ✓  
DECEMBER 21, 1994

IN RE: Application of Hargray Telephone	) ORDER
Company, Inc. for Extraordinary	) GRANTING
Retirement for Central Office	) EXTRAORDINARY
Switching Equipment.	) RETIREMENT

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of Hargray Telephone Company, Inc. (Hargray or the Company) for extraordinary retirement of Central Office Switching Equipment in Hargray's Sea Pines and Hilton Head North Offices effective January 31, 1995. With this retirement, the Company proposes to charge the undepreciated book value of this investment to depreciation expense.

By letter dated November 9, 1994, the Commission's Executive Director instructed Hargray to publish a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas, one time, and to provide the Executive Director with proof of publication. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Application and advised all interested parties desiring to participate in the proceedings of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings. No Petitions to Intervene or Protests were filed. The Company complied with the instructions of the Executive Director to publish the notice.

In its Application, the Company proposes early retirement of

two (2) Stromberg DCO switches in the Company's Sea Pines and Hilton Head North offices. The Company submitted to the Commission worksheets showing the original cost and depreciated values of the two (2) host DCO switches as of January 31, 1995. The Company states that, as of that date, the switches will have a combined undepreciated book value of \$510,595. The Company requests that the Commission allow it to retire the switches on January 31, 1995 and charge their remaining book value to depreciation expense. The Company states that, upon retirement, it will transfer all working lines to its Northern Telcom switches in order to have system-wide Northern features available to all of Hargray's subscribers. Hargray also notes that the retirement and write off of this \$510,595 would lower the Company's rate of return some 1.15% if applied to the Company's August, 1994 operating results. The Company states in its Application that it has no intention of seeking any rate relief as a result of the requested early retirement.

The Commission has examined this matter and believes that the request of the Company should be granted. The Commission believes that no financial harm to Hargray subscribers will result if the Commission grants the relief sought, and that extraordinary retirement of the affected switches is reasonable under the circumstances.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application of Hargray for extraordinary retirement of the stated Central Office Switching Equipment in its Sea Pines and Hilton Head North offices, effective January 31, 1995, is

hereby granted.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director  
(SEAL)